



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California State University San Bernardino Awarded \$991,328 Improving Teacher Quality Grant

SACRAMENTO — November 7, 2005 — California State University San Bernardino has won funding for a unique new project to help high school arts educators deliver standards-based instruction and increase academic literacy in their classrooms. The university was awarded a four-year grant of \$991,328 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission in a statewide competition. Known as “DREAMS” or “Developing Rigorous Education in the Arts to Motivate Students,” the project is the only one of eight grants awarded that focuses on the Visual and Performing Arts, for which state standards have recently been developed. The project will serve high school teachers in the San Bernardino City Unified School District and neighboring districts with summer seminars and the California Arts Project year-round Collaborative Design Institute, enabling them to better teach the state arts standards at the same time they are helping to improve the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills of their students.

The grant is part of the federal Improving Teacher Quality Program funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the latest edition of a long-standing federal program aimed at improving student achievement through professional development for teachers. Over two decades of administering the program, CPEC has awarded more than \$75 million to colleges and universities working with high-need K-12 schools throughout California. The 2005 grants focus on improving academic literacy in high schools. They also require rigorous evaluation research to demonstrate how the professional development affects student achievement.

Taking note of this requirement, CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman observed that “Being required to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement, not just on teacher behavior, is critical and supports CPEC’s overall commitment to accountability in educational programs.”

Howard Welinsky, chairman of the Commission, says the grants play an important role in making sure every student has a highly qualified teacher. “The program has had a long-term impact on helping teachers strengthen their content knowledge and their understanding of effective teaching strategies—key elements of education reform,” he said. “CSU San Bernardino and its partner schools should be proud of the quality of their proposal and its potential for improving teaching and learning in the Inland Empire.”

More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. For more information about the state program, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov. For information on the project described above, contact Armalyn De La O at 909-880-5938 or adelao@csusb.edu.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.